



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

P3

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/661,506 09/13/00 SCHMIDT

R RCA 89,970

N

MMC1/0824

JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC
PATENT OPERATION TWO INDEPENDENCE WAY
P.O BOX 5312
PRINCETON NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

KIM, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED:

08/24/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/661,506	SCHMIDT, ROBERT WARREN
	Examiner Jung Kim	Art Unit 2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2000.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings filed on 9-13-00 are objected to as being hand-drawn. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For claim 6, the term “the amplifier output load” lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scofield et al (U.S. Patent No. 5841879). For claims 1,4-5 and 7, the term “center tapped ground of the split level power supply,” given the broadest reasonable interpretation based on the specification and claims, is interpreted to mean a ground which is the center level between the two split levels of a split level power supply.

For claim 1, Scofield discloses in Fig. 9 a circuit for operating an amplifier designed for operation with a single ended power supply (the opamp 126 used with split level power supply (V+ and V-) is also designed for a single power supply in that it can also operate to provide an output with only a single supply V+ and ground if such voltages were applied), the circuit

comprising: first means (the positive power supply terminal of the opamp 126 connected to V+) for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal V+; second means (the negative power supply terminal of the opamp 126 connected to V-); and means (resistor 138) for connecting a signal input terminal (inverting input terminal of 126) of the opamp 126 to a center tapped ground (ground connected through 138 is a center tapped ground in that it is the median point between two same voltages with opposite polarities, V+ and V-), as called for in claim 1. For claim 5, the split power supply (V+ and V-) also provides power to other circuits (142). For claim 7, the amplifier has an AC reference (the non-inverting input node of 126 which is connected to the resistor 124 at the tap-point) which is connected to the DC ground through 124.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scofield et al. For claim 4, the Fig. 9 amplifier circuit includes a plurality of amplifiers 162,142. Scofield fails to disclose that the Fig. 9 circuit is integrated on a common substrate having a same substrate bias. However, it is notoriously well in the art that integration on a common substrate provides added benefit of reducing space and cost. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to integrate the Fig. 9 circuit of Scofield on a common substrate because the common substrate integration is notoriously well known and provides a benefit of reducing space and cost, as called for in claim 4.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable subject matter of claims 2-3 and 6 is that the claimed circuit does not comprise DC isolation capacitors.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung Kim whose telephone number is 703-305-7242. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


Jung Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

JK
August 23, 2001